



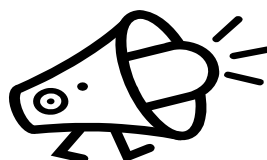
AmeriCorps IN Action

The OFBCI Announces New Monthly Newsletter

The Office of Faith-Based and Community Initiatives is pleased to introduce ***AmeriCorps IN Action***. This monthly

publication will detail upcoming OFBCI events, training opportunities, funding opportunities, best practice methods,

and AmeriCorps member accomplishments.



2006 Governor's Conference on Service & Volunteerism: **BE THE SOLUTION!**

The *Governor's Conference on Service & Volunteerism* will be held on April 10-11, 2006, at the Marriott Downtown in Indianapolis. The conference is chaired by the Office of Faith-Based and Community Initiatives on behalf of Governor Mitch Daniels. The Department of Education/Learn & Serve Indiana is a contributing partner for the event.

The theme of the 2006 Governor's Conference is BE THE SOLUTION. This

theme is reflected in the nine solution tracks. Attendees can choose from the following tracks: funding, interpersonal communication, media and public relation, career enhancement, faith-based, volunteerism, national service, service learning, and youth. Additional key topics woven throughout the nine solution tracks include sessions on disaster preparedness and prisoner re-entry.

The OFBCI needs AmeriCorps members to volunteer to assist with the 2006 Governor's Conference on Service & Volunteerism. Volunteers are needed for the following positions: material preparation assistants, registration assistants, ushers, session monitors. Various shifts and dates are available. Volunteers are use conference time towards service hours. If you are interested in volunteering, please contact Erin Wright at

Special points of interest:

- 2006 Governor's Conference on Service & Volunteerism: Pages 1 and 2
- Indiana Reading Corps assists Thai clinic: Page 3
- AmeriCorps Program of the Month: Page 3
- AmeriCorps Member Story: Page 4

ewright@ofbci.in.gov
or Christina Mauntel at
cmauntel@ofbci.in.gov



APRIL 10-11, 2006
Indianapolis, IN
www.ofbci.in.gov

Speakers for 2006 Governor's Conference

The 2006 Governor's Conference on Service & Volunteerism will feature several presenters and speakers including Indiana Governor **Mitch Daniels**, **Jim Towey**, **Elizabeth Seale**, **Angela Cain**, and **Michael Twyman**.

Jim Towey currently serves as the director for the White House Office of Faith Based and Community Initiatives. He is tentatively scheduled to deliver the keynote speaker for the Awards Dinner April 10, 2006. Before serving in his current role, Mr. Towey founded and ran *Age with Dignity* and served as legal counsel for Mother Teresa. He has also functioned as Legislative Director and Legal Counsel for Senator Mark Hatfield and served as Florida's health and

human services director.

Elizabeth Seale is Chief Operating Officer for Cooperation for National and Community Service. Ms. Seale is scheduled to attend the 2006 Governor's Conference. Before appointment to the Cooperation, Ms. Seale served as Deputy Secretary for Planning and Programs for the Maryland Department of Human Resources. She also served as founding director of Center for Faith Based and Community Initiatives. Seale has a long history of service in her home state of Texas both in the public and private sphere.

Angela Cain is WTHR's Director of Community Affairs. During her broadcasting career, she has reported from Indiana

and Texas and is the recipient of many awards. She will moderate a media panel consisting of representatives from television, radio, and print during the 2006 Governor's Conference.

Dr. Michael Twyman currently serves Director of Grants Programs for the Nina Mason Pulliam Charitable Trust for Indiana. During his career, Dr. Twyman has garnered extensive experience with nonprofit management and child welfare, served as special assistant to the mayor of Indianapolis, and served on many nonprofit boards of directors. He will moderate a funders' panel consisting of representatives from the cooperate, private, and community arenas.

Nominate AmeriCorps Members for Governor's National Service Award

The evening of April 10 will feature an Awards Dinner with Governor Daniels in attendance. He will present several awards to outstanding Hoosier volunteers. Categories for selection include youth, faith-based, national service, volunteerism, service learning, and lifetime achievement.

The category for national service is targeted toward indi-



viduals or groups affiliated with AmeriCorps, AmeriCorps *VISTA, AmeriCorps *NCCC, Senior Corps, RSVP, Senior Companions or Foster Grandparents. If you know an individual or group whom exem-

plifies national service, please nominate them for this award.

Nominations must be received by the Office of Faith-Based and Community Initiatives **no later than Friday, March 10, 2006**. For more details about nomination process or to obtain an application, please visit <http://www.in.gov/ofbci/events/conf06/governorsaward.pdf>.

Indiana Reading Corps Assists Mae Tao Clinic in Thailand

The Indiana Reading Corps, an Indiana AmeriCorps program, usually works to increase literacy within the state of Indiana. However, during the month of January, the Indiana Reading Corps looked for a service project beyond Indiana's borders.

The Indiana Reading Corps collected medical items, children's clothing, educational materials, food, and monetary donations to be sent to Mae Tao Clinic located in northwest Thailand, near the Burmese-Thai border.

The Mae Tao Clinic serves refugee populations from Burma, who have evacuated to

Thailand. It was founded in 1988 by Dr. Cynthia Maung and offers medical and educational programs. The clinic is staffed by local volunteers and some Western trained medical staff. For more information about the Mae Tao Clinic, please visit <http://www.burmaborderprojects.org/clinic.html>.

The Indiana Reading Corps collected items as part of its Winter Retreat Community Service Project. From January 1-18, 2006, donations were collected at Indiana Reading Corps host sites around the state. Over 43 boxes or 700 pounds of goods were col-

lected!

The Indiana Reading Corps now needs financial assistance to ship the goods to Thailand. If you are interested in assisting please contact Sarah Younker-Koppel at 317-274-6500 or visit www.indianacampuscompact.org.



Program of the Month: Indiana Reading Corps

Indiana Reading Corps (IRC) is a program designed to assist Hoosier children improve literacy skills. As a program of Indiana Campus Compact, the IRC places full and part-time AmeriCorps members in institutions of higher education and elementary schools to serve as tutors.

Full-time AmeriCorps IRC members serve 1700 hours over the course of a year and receive literacy and volunteer management training. Part-time AmeriCorps IRC members serve 300 hours and work

as tutors for K-6 students. Most part-time AmeriCorps members are Work-study students enrolled in an institute of higher education.

Indiana Campus Compact has locations at universities across the state including: Ball State University, Butler University, DePauw University, Earlham College, Goshen College, Holy Cross College, Indiana State University, Indiana University System, Indiana University (Bloomington, East, Kokomo, Northwest, Southeast, South Bend) Indiana University Pur-

due University (Columbus, Fort Wayne, Indianapolis), Manchester College, Marian College, Martin University, Purdue University (Calumet, North Central), Saint Mary's College, Taylor University, University of Evansville, University of Indianapolis, University of Notre Dame, University of Saint Francis, University of Southern Indiana, and Valparaiso University. For more information on Indiana Reading Corps, please visit <http://www.iupui.edu/~icc/>.

AmeriCorps Member of the Month: Kyaw T. Soe- Indiana Reading Corps

Every month, the OFBCI will highlight a AmeriCorps member. Kyaw T. Soe is director of the Indiana Reading Corps at Indiana University–Purdue University in Ft. Wayne (IPFW).



Kyaw assists Thein Htwe with improving her English skills.

Kyaw T. Soe was a peace and civil right activist in his homeland of Burma. In 1988, he was a third year Burmese Literature student at Rangoon University. As a student leader of an uprising, Kyaw was forced to flee Burma to Thailand. While in Thailand, he volunteered to teach English and Thai for the United Nation High Commissioner for Refugees to Burmese refugees. In 1993, he was allowed to enter the United States and settled in Ft. Wayne, Indiana.

Shortly after his arrival, Kyaw began working at a local factory. His desire to continue his education and a promise made to his father, Kyaw enrolled at

the IPFW in 1995. He earned his Associate degree in General Studies in 1998 and completed his bachelor's degree in Political Science in 2004.

As a father of two young children, Kyaw understood how Burmese children and parents struggle in the American school system. In the summer of 2003, he founded and funded a preschool preparation program to assist Burmese children in adapting to the American educational system and social setting.

Under his guidance, the summer tutoring program has expanded to a year-round program. In the future, he hopes to expand the IRC program even further because of the large demand for its services. Indiana Reading Corps program at IPFW has grown to include children from Samaria, Congo, Bosnia, Spanish speaking countries, and Sudan.

Kyaw's main priority is to help children master English; however, he also finds time to assist their parents. He helps with translation, interpreting, parent workshops, and guidance. He is also a major supporter of parents who want to pursue higher education. He assists with their enrollment in local colleges. He believes education is a key for opportunity and success.

America has given these individuals the opportunity to start new lives. He believes assisting children and their parents to become productive members of their community will help them realize their American dream.



Kyaw T. Soe with his family, Tasha, age 3, and Marco, age 7.



Office of Faith-Based and Community Initiatives

302 West Washington Street, Room E012

Indianapolis, IN 46204

317-233-4273

www.ofbci.in.gov